

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2 and 20-28 and amend claims 1 and 11 and 29-37. All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising:
providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR);
searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;
providing search results; and
wherein the VCR includes a common content model and namespace; and wherein each one of the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) compatible with the VCR and such that the SPI interfaces between the VCR and the content repositories.
2. (Canceled).
3. The method of claim 1 wherein searching the VCR includes:
searching each of the plurality of content repositories.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

5. The method of claim 1 wherein providing search results includes:
combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein providing search results includes:
caching the search results.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a VCR includes:
extending the content model to include information in the plurality of content repositories; and
wherein the namespace spans the plurality of content repositories.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein:
the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of content repositories.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the VCR includes a set of content information and a set of schema information.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein searching the VCR for information includes:
searching the set of content information and the set of schema information.
11. A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising:
providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR);
searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;
providing search results; and
wherein each one of the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) compatible with the VCR and such that the SPI interfaces between the VCR and the content repositories.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein searching the VCR includes:
searching each of the plurality of content repositories.
13. The method of claim 11 wherein:
the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).
14. The method of claim 11 wherein providing search results includes:
combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories.
15. The method of claim 11 wherein providing search results includes:
caching the search results.
16. The method of claim 11 wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a VCR includes:
extending a VCR content model to include information in the plurality of content repositories; and
providing a hierarchical namespace spanning the plurality of content repositories.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein:
the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of content repositories.
18. The method of claim 11 wherein:
the VCR includes a set of content information and a set of schema information.
19. The method of claim 18 wherein searching the VCR for information includes:

searching the set of content information and the set of schema information.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

29. A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising: ~~A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium, comprising:~~

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to provide for the representation of a plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR);

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to search the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to provide search results;
and

wherein each one of the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) compatible with the VCR and such that the SPI interfaces between

the VCR and the content repositories.

30. The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29, further comprising:
a ~~code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to search each of the plurality of content repositories.
31. The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29 wherein:
the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).
32. The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29, further comprising:
a ~~code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to combine the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories.
33. The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29, further comprising:
a ~~code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to cache the search results.
34. The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29, further comprising:
a ~~code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to extend a VCR content model to include information in the plurality of content repositories; and
a ~~code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to provide a hierarchical namespace spanning the plurality of content repositories.
35. The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 34 wherein:
the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of content repositories.